

SECOND ANNUAL

FEEDER CONTRACT AUCTION

Madonna Inn • 805/543-3000 • San Luis Obispo, California

FRIDAY, MAY 15

12 NOON

8950

HEAD

Buyer registration
will take place prior
to sale time.

List of cattle consigned

- 1400 No. 1½ crossbred and whiteface yearling Mexican type steers 700-850 lbs.
800 No. 1½ Brahman crossbred steers 900-950 lbs.
1000 No. 1 Brahman yearling crossbred steers 700-750 lbs.
1100 No. 1 Brahman yearling crossbred steers 675-725 lbs.
365 choice yearling steers 800-850 lbs.
200 choice yearling steers 750-900 lbs.
- 600 choice yearling steers 700-750 lbs.
700 choice quality yearling steers 700-750 lbs.
1000 choice quality yearling steers 700-750 lbs.
400 choice quality yearling steers 700-775 lbs.
250 choice yearling steers 750-800 lbs.
200 choice yearling heifers 700-750 lbs.
250 choice yearling heifers 675-750 lbs.
250 choice yearling steers 750-800 lbs.
175 choice yearling heifers 675-700 lbs.

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ED BEARD or
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714/344-5631

H. SKINNER HARDY, Bakersfield, Calif.
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owned cattle in their
first hands, which is a
requirement to consign
to this selling event.

Comments

New beef demand and consumption figures suggest that the nation's stockmen must face up immediately to the most serious problem that has confronted the beef industry since 1976: the horrible inability of the beef industry to market its product. It used to be that beef marketing programs could be proposed, discussed, a consensus reached, and action taken.

Today, instead of taking action, U.S. cattlemen seem convinced they can talk the problem to death. It isn't working! Since peaking in 1976, per capita consumption of beef is presently near a 20 year low.

During the past few years, continued growth in poultry consumption and rapid rises in pork supplies have more than offset the decline in beef supplies. It would oblige all stockmen to realize that a significant change in the overall pattern of meat consumption has occurred. In 1980 beef accounted for 37% of per capita consumption of all meats. Pork was 32% and poultry 29% of the total. Ten years earlier beef consumption represented 42% of the total, while pork and poultry accounted for only 31% and 24%, respectively.

It can be argued that consumption is not a good measure of demand since consumption of meat is a function of production. Generally, all meat produced will be consumed at some price level. However, other demand statistics don't make beef look any better.

One of the statistics used as an index of meat demand is the portion of consumer disposable income spent for meat. This statistic takes into account relationships between prices and quantities of meat, and how they relate to purchasing power.

Fact: During the first quarter of 1981 consumers spent only 2.21% of their disposable income for beef. This is the lowest figure ever recorded, and represents a continuation of the decline in this indicator from the mid-1970s.

The beef industry's fumbling attempts to strike a beef marketing program has made one thing indisputably clear: An industry that ducks its marketing responsibility is doomed to financial failure. An industry that closes its eyes to marketing is a business fraud. Nothing can be gained by pretending that it is anything else.

—GLEN RICHARDSON

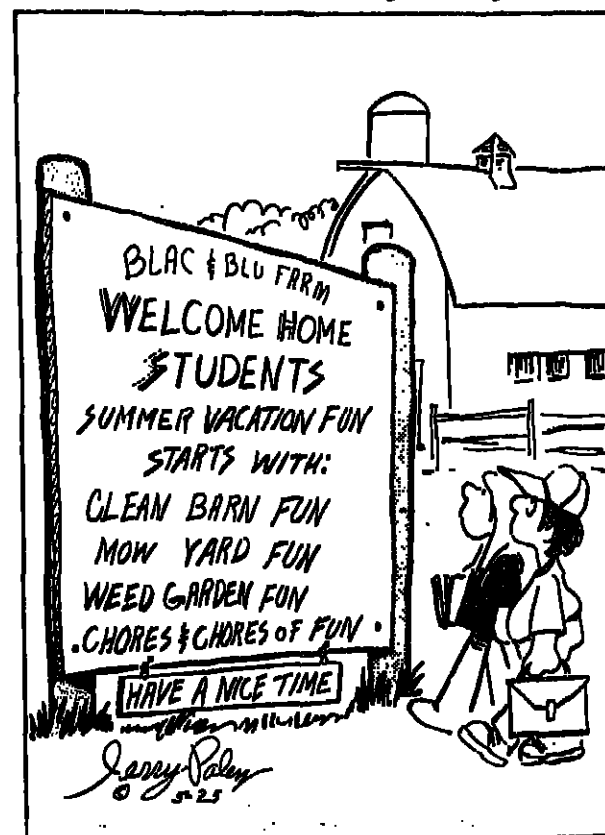
Livestock and meat groups feel
Government should
pay interest on bills

Four livestock and meat groups recently supported a bill that would require the federal government to pay interest to federal contractors, such as meat packers, on overdue accounts. Reports CNS, the bill, introduced by Senator John Danforth, (R-Mo.), was also supported at a Senate government affairs subcommittee hearing by a coalition of 25 diverse trade organizations whose members sell to the federal government. The Danforth legislation would require government agencies to pay their suppliers interest on bills the government failed to pay within 30 days.

However, the four meat groups—the National Cattlemen's Assn., the National Pork Producers Council, the National Meat Assn. (Continued on page 3)

STAMPEDE

By Jerry Palen

BLM director cites need for
more local decision making

By LARRY MARSHALL

Robert Burford, in his first official press conference since being sworn in as director of the Bureau of Land Management, gave every indication that Reagan Administration promises will be kept and public land use streamlined.

In Denver to swear in new Colorado state director George Francis, Burford addressed many of the problems cattlemen and other public land users have had with the BLM over the past few years. Burford is working to push decision-making back to local levels, improve on the BLM image as a "good neighbor" and improve on the permit-

issuing process.

He told Western Livestock Journal his first decision in office was to push the decision-making as far down the ladder as it would go. "Those people at local and state levels know the issues and know them best," he said. "In most decisions Washington shouldn't enter into them at all."

This is part of an overall program to make the bureau more responsive, according to mandates from both President Reagan and Interior Secretary James Watt.

BLM land has limited the growth of a number of Western cities, and inflated

the value of land that is available. This serious hardship on the cities will be relieved as the bureau makes more of this land available, Burford said.

"Another part of this is speeding up the permit process," he continued. "I want to add a degree of certainty to this process—give an answer, quick and with the right of appeal."

Burford indicated a new set of rangeland policies are in the draft stage and will be released soon. Under questioning, he said it wouldn't change many policies as much as it might "resurrect some that have been forgotten." These would (Continued on page 11)

Drouth
area
decreasing
in central
U.S.

The drouth area in the central U.S. has been slowly decreasing during May. Global Weather Services (GWS), said recently.

Reports CNS, rain during the past two to three weeks in northern and eastern Kansas, much of Missouri, southern Iowa and southeastern Nebraska has eased there, particularly regarding soil moisture for spring crop growth.

However, additional rain is necessary in order to completely break the drouth, including replenishing pond and stream levels and raising depleted water tables.

Portions of the northern Corn Belt remain too wet at midmonth, according to the National Weather Service and USDA, Crop Moisture Index and GWS. The wettest area of the belt is centered around Lafayette, Ind., where more than 4 inches of rain has occurred in May.

Drouth conditions have continued in the northern Plains, GWS said. Although rainfall of nearly 1 inch occurred recently in eastern Montana, the current dry pattern still includes much of the eastern half of that state and nearly all of the Dakotas and Minnesota, except southeastern Minnesota.

WESTERN
LIVESTOCK
JOURNAL

A CROW PUBLICATION

News • Trends • Sales • Shows • Markets

May 25, 1981

Central Edition

Vol. 60, No. 30

Cattle-on-feed report bearish

Sharply lower to limit down live and feeder cattle futures are expected following a government report showing "overplacements" in feedlots and sluggish fed-cattle marketings last month, livestock analysts told CNS.

A number of factors led cattlemen to place more cattle in feedlots than they marketed during April for the first time in at least 10 years, according to a recent USDA seven-state cattle-on-feed report, analysts said.

The low marketings are bearish for nearby contract prices while the heavy placements do not bode well for deferred contract prices, they said.

The report pegged April placements in the seven-state cattle feeding states at 139% of a year earlier. April marketings at 97% of a year earlier and total cattle on feed as of May 1 at 103%.

A survey of livestock analysts compiled by CNS before the report showed average estimates for placements at 118.5% of a year

earlier, marketings at 102.9% and total cattle on feed at 97.9%.

Chuck Levitt, a livestock analyst with Shearson Loeb Rhoades Inc., projected the report would lead live and feeder cattle futures to limit down.

All three key figures in the report were bearish based on pre-report expectations, Levitt said. But the placement figure was the most negative and the heaviest pressure should come on live cattle contracts for delivery in late summer and fall, he said.

The 35% increase in the placement figure, although

compared with the eight-year low reached in April 1980, is still quite formidable, he said.

"Placements being up like this and markets being down is a shock," Levitt said. "There had to have been a lot of pent up demand and feedlots brought feeder cattle like gangbusters." A number of factors during April led cattle feeders to aggressively place cattle, said Curtis Mahon, a livestock analyst with Thomson McKinnon Securities Inc.

Advancing fed cattle prices boosted cattlemen's (Continued on page 11)

McMillan calls for
economy shake-up

By CAROLYN J. HURST

"Cattle prices are going to get better, and hog prices are going to get better, but not for awhile. And, I'll tell you why... you have to get the economy better first."

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Bill McMillan made that comment to the annual Mountain/Plains Meat Club meeting, in Denver. Over 100 cattlemen and other meat industry supporters attended the dinner meeting on the National Western Stockshow grounds.

In his comments, McMillan outlined four major points in President Reagan's economic program that "we need your continuing support for. The people in the livestock industry have been great in helping us up to this point," McMillan said, "but the battle is long from over."

The four areas stressed by McMillan as essential to the future success of the livestock industry were:

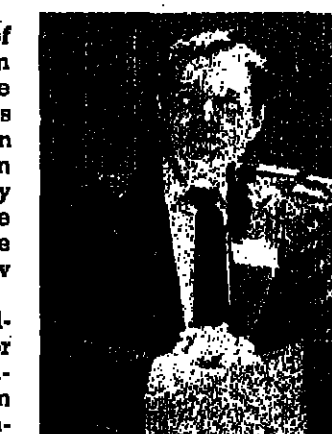
• Balancing the budget—"We're going to cut back the fat, but not in any kind of an abusive way," the Assistant Secretary said. The food stamp and school lunch programs were two areas which will receive cuts according to McMillan.

• Tax reform—McMillan said President Reagan's tax plan is an entire tax package, not just a tax cut. "That's important to you in business. The tax package covers such things as investment credit, capital gains, accelerated depreciation," he said. "Let's call them tax incentives."

• Regulatory reform—"I don't need to tell you that there are a lot of regulations on the books that need to be changed... you're not going to do away with all regulations, but what we (in the USDA) are going to attempt to do... is try to cut away the red tape type

of regulations that we've all been living with."

• Monetary policy changes—McMillan cited high interest rates as an area which will be addressed by the administration.

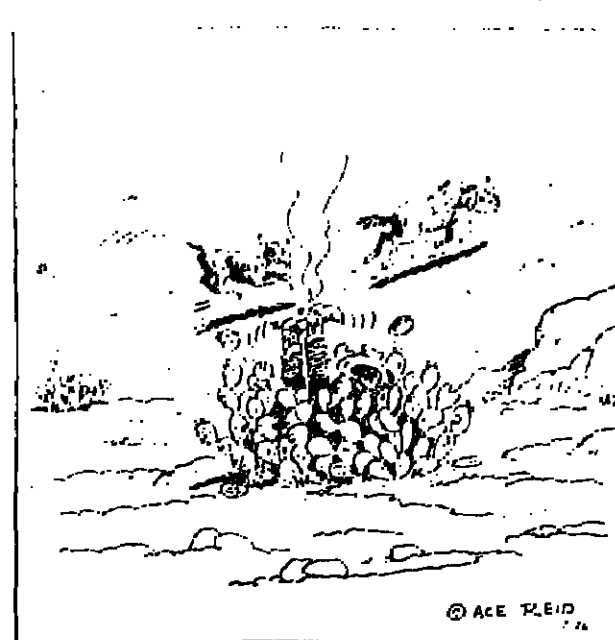


McMillan

McMillan said the USDA will focus on the above areas and other issues as a team. "It's probably the first time that you've had within the Department of Agriculture a high concentration of (Continued on page 11)

NEWSPAPER (priority handling)

NEWSPAPER (priority handling)



"Wul, nothin' seems to be goin' right for me today!"



PROMOTED—Frederic M. Iverson has been promoted to Kansas district sales manager—animal products, for Elanco Products Company, the agricultural marketing division of Eli Lilly and Company. He has been serving as a marketing associate for cattle products for the past two years.

Trade pact with Mexico to be signed soon, says U.S.

The U.S. and Mexico are expected to sign a one-year agricultural trade agreement for 1982, replacing the current pact, when Mexico's President Juan Lopez Portillo visits Washington June 8-9, U.S. government and trade sources said.

Reports CNS, discussions about the agreement with Mexico, the third largest importer of U.S. agricultural goods, are still underway and a final agreement has not been fully negotiated. Sources said, however, that it will follow the loose pattern of the annual agreements of 1980 and 1981, setting general guidelines for Mexico's import of U.S. grain and oilseeds.

One USDA official said that although the 1982 agreement may set grain and oilseed import levels for Mexico near those of 1981—6.150 to 8.180 million tons—Mexico's actual imports next year may be lower than in 1981.

The reason is that Mexico has expanded domestic production, especially of edible beans and corn for human consumption, and anticipated good weather could markedly improve output.

The new agreement is also expected by sources to continue the practice of Mexico holding its tenders for U.S. goods through USDA headquarters in Washington. Mexico is the only importing nation that does so, but the policy is apparently favored by Mexican officials.

Sources said the initiative for the new agreement came from Mexico. It was Mexico that originally asked for the one-year 1980 agreement.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block caused some concern in Mexico when he said earlier this year that he did not think an agricultural pact between the two nations was needed.

The Reagan Administration apparently changed its position after Mexico, a major trading partner and supplier of oil to the U.S., made it clear that it wanted another agreement.

One USDA official said an agreement with Mexico made practical sense because of the proximity of the nations and the large amount of trade that goes on.

Also, many U.S. agricultural exports move by rail to Mexico. Close coordination between the two nations was necessary to clear up the rail logjam that caused an embargo of rail movement to Mexico last year, the official said. The agreement helped make that and continuing work on rail problems easier, he said.

Regional co-ops consider merger

Boards of directors of Farmland Industries, Inc., and Midland Cooperatives, Inc., met recently to study and report on the possible unification of the two regional cooperatives, according to a Farmland news release.

Recently, 23 people were exposed to rabies when a bull was brought to Colorado. Of these 23 persons, five had to undergo extensive treatment to prevent fatal infection.

Many other rural activities result in potentially hazardous situations that can lead to infection, disease, disability or death.

Government should pay interest on bills

(Continued from page 1)

and the American Meat Institute—asked that the bill be amended to require the government to pay their meat bills within seven days. The meat groups, represented by Frank Bauer of Max Bauer Meat Packer Inc., said seven-day payment terms are standard in the meat industry.

Bauer said the meat industry needed the seven-day terms because the Packers and Stockyards Act requires packers to pay for the livestock they purchase before the end of the next business day.

"Since the government is often late in paying its meat

bills, a packer frequently has to borrow money at current high interest rates to pay its own suppliers. The packer's interest payments on this borrowed money could totally wipe out any profits the meat packer might have made from his sale to the government. He said the latest AMI meat packer survey showed that meat packer profits average only 1.5% per dollar of sales.

The federal government purchases a substantial volume of meat annually. In 1980, the U.S. military alone consumed 319 million lb. of red meat on a carcass weight basis, Bauer said.

On a daily basis, we fight off colds, flu, measles and a variety of other infections caused by bacteria or viruses. We know these microbes are common to humans, so we cope with them.

But what about all of the microbes common to animals that also can cause disease in humans? These diseases are known as zoonoses.

More than 80 diseases in animals can infect humans in the United States. Such diseases as anthrax, plague, rabies, brucellosis and leptospirosis are not uncommon. Luckily, there are measures to keep these diseases under control until something goes wrong.

When it does, people get sick.

Recently, 23 people were exposed to rabies when a bull was brought to Colorado. Of these 23 persons, five had to undergo extensive treatment to prevent fatal infection.

Many other rural activities result in potentially hazardous situations that can lead to infection, disease, disability or death.

Most urbanites will never come in contact with many of these microbes. Most rural residents, however, come in contact with disease-causing bacteria, viruses or parasites routinely. It is the nature of their work.

These diseases can spread from animals to humans through direct contact: eating, handling and breathing. Eating these disease agents is easy because dangerous microbes can be found in contaminated water, unpasteurized milk and improperly cooked meat. Hands can become contaminated while handling animals, animal parts or products. Finally, farmers and ranchers may breathe small particles produced by infected animals or dusts from contaminated feed and wastes.

To control these diseases, it is necessary to first recognize what they are and where they are found. To aid in that task, Colorado State University has compiled the following information.

Anthrax is a disease found mainly in cattle but also in horses, pigs, sheep and goats. People get this disease when they touch infected animals or animal parts.

In particular, textile workers who handle skin, hair and hides are more likely to come into contact with the organism.

Brucellosis, also called "Bang's Disease," is found mostly in cattle and pigs, but also in sheep and goats. Humans get brucellosis by direct contact with infected animals or by drinking unpasteurized milk.

Leptospirosis also is contracted by drinking contaminated liquid. However, unlike brucellosis, this disease is caused by drinking water contaminated by urine from infected animals, which can happen when swimming in ponds or irrigation ditches.

Rabies is passed when an infected animal bites a human, injecting the disease organism into the wound. This virus is common in bats and skunks and can infect such domestic animals as dogs and cats if vaccinations are not kept current. If rabies is allowed to enter the domestic animal population, people have a much greater risk of acquiring the disease because of their close association with pets and livestock.

Plague is caused by bacteria. Fleas take their meal of blood from infected animals, usually rodents, then become infected. Once the rodent dies from plague, the flea has no place to feed. If humans or family pets come into areas where rodents have died of plague, they may find the hungry fleas very willing to feed on them. Once this has happened, the transmission of plague is complete.

Two other common types of zoonoses are tularemia and trichinosis. Both diseases are caused by eating undercooked meat or by handling infected animal tissues. Trichinosis is a common parasite of pork and can be transmitted when humans eat pork meat that is not cooked until white in the center. The transmission of trichinosis is similar to trichinosis except that trichinosis is found primarily in rabbits and sheep.

Control of zoonoses is based on prevention. The key to prevention is recognizing symptoms of disease in animals before the infection gets out of control. Another important aspect of prevention is the routine immunization of animals to prevent disease.

It is important to remember that outbreaks of zoonotic diseases are not common today only because the diseases have been controlled. They have not been eliminated since the diseases still exist, they need to be monitored and controlled continually.

CSU recommends that farmers and ranchers practice strict herd management, and keep herd and pet immunizations and vaccinations up to date. All new animals and animals returning from shows should be isolated from home stock for 30 to 90 days. New animals should be examined by a veterinarian.

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Six states report scabies outbreak

Ten outbreaks of penicillin-resistant cattle scabies were confirmed during April in California, Kansas, Minnesota, New Mexico, South Dakota and Texas, the USDA said recently, reports CNS.

Single outbreaks were reported in Alameda and Contra Costa, Calif.; Henneville County, Minn.; Curry County, New Mexico; Corson County, S.D.; and Swisher County, Texas. The four remaining outbreaks were in Kansas in Graham, Norton, Ness and Sheridan Counties.

The 10 outbreaks in April are below the 16 reported in April last year, USDA said. Since Oct. 1, 1980, there have been 127 cases of cattle scabies reported nationwide.



TEAM WORK—Members of the University of Southern Colorado Judging Team got a workout during the recent New Mexico Brahman Bull Sale. The team was en route from Pueblo, Colo. to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

CSU prints list of health hazards; says control hinges on prevention

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1:00 p.m. IJBBA Activities, County Fair Barn
1:00 p.m. TBBA General Membership & Board Meeting, Sunday House
3:00 p.m. IBBA Board of Directors Meeting, Inn of the Hills

***Friday, June 12**
8:30 a.m. Open Heifer Futurity, County Fair Barn
10:30 a.m. Junior Heifer Futurity, County Fair Barn
1:00 p.m. Open Bull Futurity, County Fair Barn
6:00 p.m. "Miss America" Pre-Sale Party, Riverhill Country Club
8:30 p.m. "Miss America" & Western Art Sale, Riverhill Country Club

***Saturday, June 13**
Come early for the
10:30 a.m. Champagne Brunch, Riverhill Country Club
12:00 noon "Top Of The Crop" Sale, Riverhill Country Club
Selling: 35 top notch females
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***Sunday, June 14**
8:00 a.m. Breakfast, Sisterdale
12:00 noon Lunch, Sisterdale
2:00 p.m. Brinks Foundation Female and Herd Sire Sale, Sisterdale, Texas
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ERNST SPITZGERBER

Ernst Spitzgerber of Prairie Center, Wyo., died at the Community Hospital in Torrington, Wyo., April 19. He was 66. Born Oct. 16, 1914 at the family homestead in Prairie Center, Spitzgerber was the son of Hugo and Matha Jorgensen Spitzgerber.

He married Darlene Bomer of Wayne, Neb. in 1938. The couple moved to their Prairie Center ranch in 1947.

Spitzgerber was a member of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Assn.; served as treasurer of the Goshute County Stockgrowers; was past president of the Goshute County Fair Board and the Rocky Mountain Assn. of Fairs; was past secretary of the Wyoming Simmental Assn.; was a 4-H leader; served on the board of directors of the Goshute County Farm Bureau and served on the school boards of Wayne County, Neb., and Goshute County, Wyo.

In 1976, Spitzgerber was awarded the John N. Breuer memorial plaque for his outstanding service to the Wyoming Simmental Assn. He was also recognized by the Wyoming extension service for his contribution to beef herd improvement.

Survivors include his wife, Darlene of Torrington; two sons, Loren of Ridgefield, Wash., and Joel of Los Alamitos, Calif.; two daughters, Jeanne of Hayward, Calif., and Angela of Bismarck, Wyo.; a sister, Barbara, of Bismarck, Wyo.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Prairie Center funeral home. Burial will be in the Prairie Center cemetery.

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Meat export expansion hinges on packers, trade laws, says officials

Expanding the volume of U.S. meat exports will require high-level U.S. pressure for reduction of non-tariff trade barriers and perhaps a change in meat packer attitudes toward the export market, government and industry officials told CNS.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block has said placing increased emphasis on the export of value-added U.S. agricultural products, such as meat, will be one of his top trade priorities. Officials of the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) Office also have cited reducing non-tariff trade barriers that limit value-added exports as a top priority.

One of the challenges the U.S. faces will be gaining negotiating leverage with which to push for relaxation of meat trade barriers such as quotas, several sources said.

U.S. Meat Export Feder-

ation President Alan Middaugh told CNS the best way the U.S. could gain leverage to increase market access for U.S. beef in the European Economic Community would be to fill the EEC's current 10,000-ton annual U.S. beef import quota.

Only about 1,000 tons of U.S. beef entered the EEC under that quota last year, and shipments of about 3,000 are expected this year, according to a USDA official. The EEC is considered one of the largest potential markets for U.S. beef.

However, meat packers have been hesitant to ship to the EEC while such issues as EEC health requirements and a possible EEC hormone ban remain unresolved, the USDA official said. The EEC has proffered a list of health requirements for livestock slaughter and inspection with which many U.S. meat plants cannot

comply. Although these unresolved requirements are not a total deterrent to U.S. exports, they add an element of uncertainty to the meat export business, which even under the best circumstances is a complicated one, he said.

"(The government is) just now coming around to the fact that the EEC health requirements are a political problem and not a veterinary problem," Middaugh said. The fact that the U.S. had approached the requirements as a veterinary problem tended to prolong the health issue.

Bryan Wadsworth, deputy director of the dairy, livestock and poultry division of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, said packers need to become consistent exporters if the U.S. is to substantially increase its meat export volume.

Wadsworth said many

packers have considered exporting meat only when domestic freezers are full. In addition to EEC trade barriers, U.S. exporters also face competition in other markets from subsidized EEC meat exports. Subsidized beef exports from EEC intervention stocks go mostly to Eastern Europe, the USSR and Spain, according to USDA data.

EEC member Denmark also is a competitor of the U.S. for pork sales to the Caribbean, according to the Mike Simpson of the National Pork Producers Council.

To expand market access for U.S. meat in Japan, the U.S. government needs to link reduction of Japanese meat trade barriers to other trade issues in which Japan is interested, Middaugh said.

Under a previously negotiated formula, Japan's quota for U.S. high-quality

beef is scheduled to increase each year until reaching 30,800 tons in Japanese fiscal year 1983. Middaugh said the U.S. in 1982 should start pressuring Japan to raise the 1984 quota to at least 50,000 tons.

He said implementation of beef quality grade changes proposed by the National Cattlemen's Assn. might make U.S. beef more acceptable to foreign customers. Japanese consumers will accept heavy beef, yield-grades 4 and 5, but "fat" beef causes problems in Europe where consumers are unfamiliar with marbled meat, he said.

Middaugh said mechanically deboned meat could become an important export item if it could be produced in substantial amounts. It could be sold to markets such as Southeast Asia, where there is a protein deficit.

Middaugh said the oil-rich nations, such as Saudi

Arabia and Kuwait, which have virtually no meat import restrictions, are large potential markets for U.S. beef—provided it is slaughtered according to Islamic requirements. However, pork would be almost totally excluded from Middle East markets.

For pork, the Caribbean nations have as much market potential as Japan, where pork exports are hampered by gate prices, according to Simpson. However, in the Caribbean and Venezuela—another major pork market—pork imports are mostly controlled by government-issued import licenses, he said.

Pork importers have been trying to convince the Venezuelan government to import pork year round, he said. Pork import licenses there tend to be issued seasonally, mostly near the Christmas Season, Simpson said.

A hungry future?

Erosion reminiscent of dirty 30's

Erosion robs this country of enough soil to cover the state of Iowa with a layer an inch thick each year, and this often comes from the best land, say USDA experts.

That's an annual loss of 5.5 billion tons of soil, a persistent statistic despite efforts to bring it down.

Farmers, ranchers and conservation specialists with USDA agencies have stepped up their fight to check the huge losses, and they're urging that much more be done in the years ahead.

Conservationists emphasize that the stakes in protecting farm topsoils have risen sharply. With so many more mouths to feed than in the past, abroad as well as in the U.S., they warn, failure to better protect the topsoil eventually would mean hunger for millions.

"Soils being taken by erosion generally are the richest in nutrients and organic matter and have the most favorable conditions for plant growth," said Norman A. Berg, chief of the USDA's Soil Conservation Service. "This constitutes a significant drain in the productive potential of land where our food is produced."

Berg cited a Farm Pond Harvest magazine story which said enough soil goes into the Mississippi River in one year to build an island a mile long, a quarter of a mile wide and 200 feet high. Such an island would contain the equivalent of

808 rail carloads of phosphorus, 21,121 carloads of potassium, 291,511 carloads of calcium and 67,270 carloads of magnesium.

Berg said the soil losses are like bags of money floating down the nation's rivers. Figured at 1979 prices, USDA soil conservation specialists estimate that putting all of the lost nitrogen and phosphorus and one-fourth of the lost potassium back into the damaged land would add up to \$18 billion in just one year.

Dollars are just part of the problem. This past summer's long stretch of 100-degree-plus temperatures in some areas stirred memories of the dust clouds that engulfed Great Plains states like Oklahoma and Texas nearly half a century ago.

Although the hot, dry summer of 1980 was mild compared to the "Dust Bowl" of the mid-1930's, it did reduce food production. The recent drought piled soil dunes at the sides of buildings and on highways, sent soil into homes, muddied drinking water, made food on the table gritty and killed dreams of some farm and ranch families.

Some people living in the Great Plains prayed for rain and hung wet sheets over windows and across cribs so babies could breathe easier. Yet, this was only a relatively gentle reminder of what can happen in the future if the pace of erosion

isn't slowed, Berg said. At today's erosion rate, he said, food supplies will be seriously threatened in about 100 years. In Iowa, for example, half of the original topsoil—six to eight inches—already has been lost from sloping, unprotected land during the century the state has been farmed.

Fortunately, said Bert, the country has the know-how to bring soil erosion under control.

"By using modern conservation methods and advanced agricultural technology, we can prevent another Dust Bowl," Berg said. "Terraces, conservation tillage, contour strip-cropping, grassed waterways and other practices help save the land. Many of the country's farmers and ranchers are aware of this and are taking appropriate actions."

"However, on land that has no conservation measures, erosion continues."

Pseudorabies up on Minn. farms

Pseudorabies cases in swine and other livestock in Minnesota increased more than 25% during the first quarter of 1981, compared with the first quarter of 1980, according to Wall Mackey of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

Reports CNS, a study done by Mackey showed that 76% of the cases were the result of purchasing infected breeding stock or feeder pigs.

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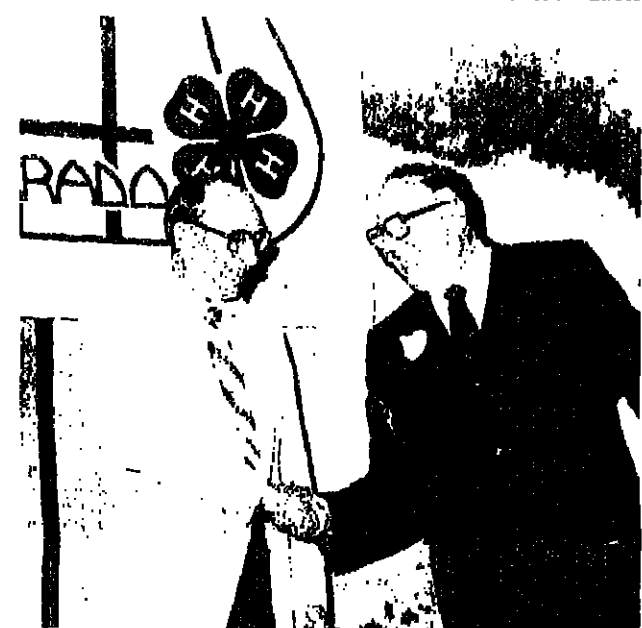
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Producer safeguards included in marketing act, says LMA

A revised version of the proposed Livestock Marketing Act, recently approved by Livestock Marketing Assn.'s executive committee, "balances the critical need for an undated marketing law with safeguards for the producer."

That was the assessment of LMA President Lemmy Wilson, who stressed that the revised version of the bill, represents no structural changes in the original Reform Act announced in January.

This act would replace Title III of the current Packers and Stockyards Act "with legislation more in tune with today's marketing realities."

The revised bill "reflects some of the comments and suggestions we've received since we began presenting

the legislation to the livestock industry," Wilson said.

While the Reform Act represents a thorough, "from the ground-up restructuring of marketing legislation, our bill fully provides the safeguards the entire livestock industry needs to maintain confidence in our free marketing system," he noted.

For example, the Reform Act would replace the current required "custodial account," through which a marketing business must clear all its customers' transactions, with a livestock trust account.

"This trust account would provide buyers and sellers with the financial security they need, while giving the marketing business necessary flexibility to

best manage these funds," Wilson said.

The Reform Act also provides for stiff civil penalties for failing to properly maintain the account, Wilson said.

And, he said, LMA's proposed bill significantly strengthens existing penalties for a variety of marketing frauds. "Any person convicted of fraud, embezzlement or theft under our bill, as well as any person conspiring to fix or control livestock prices, could be fined up to \$10,000, imprisoned up to 10 years, or both."

The multi-billion dollar livestock business "will always attract a minority of crooks, con artists and flim-flam men," Wilson continued, "and we want them punished."

"We see this legislation as the only effective way to replace outmoded regulations and self-serving administrative decisions that are not only a burden on the marketing sector, but also are no service to the rest of the industry—breeders, growers, feeders and processors."

LMA is continuing its discussions of the necessity for marketing law modernization with key members of Congress and their aide, and is now placing the revised bill in their hands.

A copy of the revised legislation and an explanatory "Fact Sheet" are available by writing LMA, 4900 Oak Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64112.

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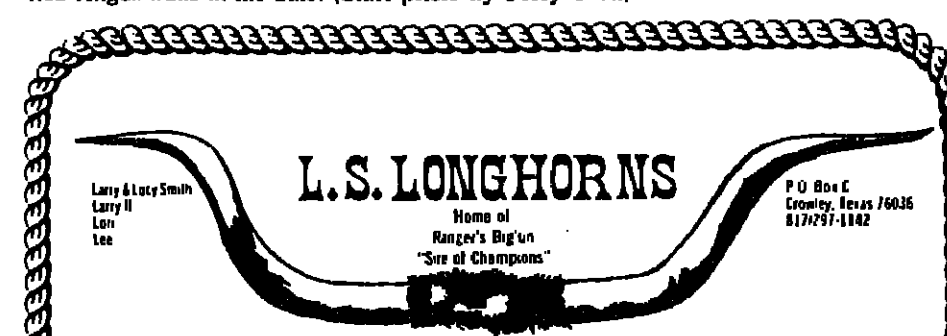
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SHOP TALK—Visiting prior to the Redd Ranches sale, Paradox, Colo., was Dennis Lamm (left), extension beef specialist, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, and the Dohertys from John L. Doherty and Sons Ranch, Folsom, N.M. Doherty purchased some Red Angus bulls in the sale. (Staff photo by Jerry York)



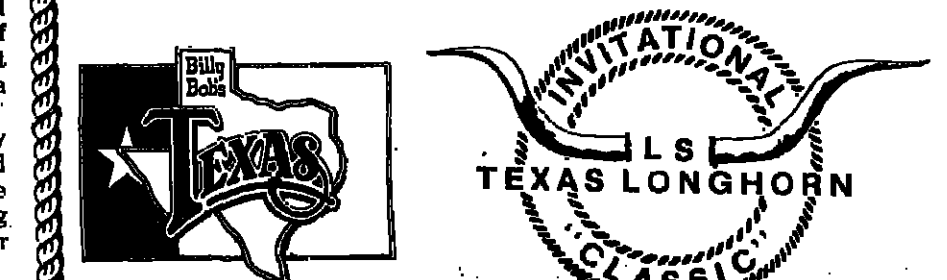
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McMillan calls for economy shake-up

wilderness designation while some others might be included, he said. Multiple use will continue to be a mainstay of his direction.

"Politics," he said in answer to a question about the governmental climate in Washington, D.C., "is omnipresent. It is a one industry town and everyone there is interested in government. If you stay there long enough, I think you develop a bias, it is like an isolation ward. That is why decision-making will be moved out to the level where people deal with them on a day-to-day basis."

Bearish

cattle-on-

(Continued from page 1)
 expectations for profitable feeding, Mahon said. Live cattle futures prices also improved to the point where producers could lock in costs and some profits on the board, ensuring profitability, he said.

Dry pasture conditions made more feeder cattle available at lower prices, also contributing to the heavy placements, Mahon said.

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(Continued from page 1)
people who really understand the livestock business . . . and that's important because the livestock industry still is the number one agricultural enterprise in the United States. It's the livestock industry, generally, that holds the rest of the

"Now, we're not going to do everything, everytime, just the way you want it," the assistant secretary continued, "But we are going to be receptive to things that are important to you."

McMillan briefly outlined the six agencies within the USDA for which he is responsible. Among those agencies is the Office of Transportation. "I would venture to say that except for the lousy market conditions that generally exist for agriculture, trans-

McMillan said food safety is another area high on his list of priorities. "I have every hope that we can get some realistic change made in the food safety law so livestock producers can better live within the

During the question answer period following McMillan's speech, the assistant agriculture secretary said:

- The importance of the

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to disseminate information on human nutrition but "it will be accurate data based on fact."

• "We are right now on the verge of changes in the U.S. beef grading standards ... I would guess that roughly one year from now we will have standard changes in USDA beef

public lands on the federal level are "totally sympathetic" to the cause.

Preceding McMillan's speech, a special tribute was paid to noted livestock journalist and promoter, Niel Skau, who passed away last month. Skau's wife, Emma, and son, Mark, attended the dinner meet-

on somebody. — Calvin Coolidge

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BLM director cites more local decisions

(Continued from page 1)

include consultation with users, state and local governments and other expertise in making land use decisions.

Livestock grazers will see less emphasis on range quality determination by one or two checks, and more emphasis on trend line analysis. This process will encompass 5-15 years, and

consider the right of a man to a job, including production of enough energy to allow that man to have his job.



"There have been far too many inconsistencies in the way range has been managed," Burford stressed. "I want to get things straightened out, and I think money collected

The new director, who along with Secretary Watt, sued the Environmental Protection Agency over a states' rights issue several years ago, plans to push for

The Endangered Species Act will be reexamined, and hopefully redefined so that a localized species doesn't disturb development unnecessarily.

"Secretary Watt and I are both in the same position, both true environmental-

have the technical expertise to mine coal and also expertise to take care of air and water quality expertise resides here is past time it was put to use."

Land inventory procedure will be speeded up

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McMillan calls for economy shake-up

(Continued from page 1)

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"Now, we're not going to

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• "We are right now at the verge of changes in the U.S. beef grading standard. . . . I would guess the roughly one year from now we will have standard changes in USDA beef grading."

• "I don't know if the Sovgrubush Rebellion will ever fly," McMillan said. "You may not get the land, but just don't know if the voters are there. You will get better management," he added saying that many of the people managing the public lands on the federal level are "totally sympat-

McMillan said food safety is another area high on his list of priorities. "I have every hope that we can get some realistic changes made in the food safety laws so livestock producers can better live within that framework, but, at the same time, satisfy consumers that they are receiving a wholesome product."

During the question/answer period following McMillan's speech, the assistant agriculture secretary said:

- The importance of the animal rights issue "should

not in any way be Coolidge

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